

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Applicants thank Examiner Sing for the interview conducted on August 17, 2009 (“the interview”) and for indicating that the cited references do not disclose an outgoing email message that has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format.

Claims 1-2, 8-10, 21-25, 29-30, 32-34, and 37-43 are pending. Claims 3-5, 7, 11-20, 26-28, 31, and 35-36 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 9-10, 21-22, 25, 29-30, 32, 37-39, and 42 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2, 8-9, and 37-40 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, and 37-40, at paragraphs 1 and 1.1-1.8 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,160 (“Tverskoy”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,765,996 (“Baxter”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,026 (“Friedman”). Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering its rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the interview that the cited references do not disclose an outgoing email message that has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, as in claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 8-9, and 37-40 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 2, 8-9, and 37-40 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claim 10 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 10, at paragraph 2 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tverskoy, in view of Baxter, further in view of Friedman, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,636 (“Goldberg”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the interview that the cited references do not disclose that an outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, as in claim 1, from which claim 10 depends. Hence, claim 10 is allowable.

In addition, Applicants note that the cited portions of Tverskoy, Baxter, Friedman, and Goldberg, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest converting an electronic audio file into a uencoded text format. The Office, at paragraph 2, states that Goldberg teaches receiving a voicemail message for a subscriber, converting the voicemail message to either a digital voice (e.g. WAV) or text, and attaching the converted voicemail message to an email message addressed to the subscriber (col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 3, lines 1-28). Applicants can find no reference to a uencoded text format in Goldberg. For at least this additional reason, claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 21-25 and 41 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 21-25, at paragraphs 3 and 3.1-3.6 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Tverskoy in view of Baxter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the interview that the cited references do not disclose that an outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, as in claim 21. Hence, claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 22-25 and 41 depend from claim 21, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 22-25 and 41 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claims 29-30 and 42 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 29-30 and 42, at paragraphs 4 and 4.1-4.2 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,483,899 (“Agraharam”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,800 (“Klein”) and further in view of Baxter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the interview that the cited references do not disclose that an outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, as in claim 29. Hence, claim 29 is allowable.

Claims 30 and 42 depend from claim 29, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 30 and 42 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claims 32-34 and 43 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 32-34 and 43, at paragraphs 5 and 5.1-5.4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Agraharam in view of Baxter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the interview that the cited references do not disclose that an outgoing email message has a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, as in claim 32. Hence, claim 32 is allowable.

Claims 33-34 and 43 depend from claim 32, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 33-34 and 43 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

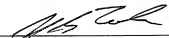
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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